

HONORING LYNN DYER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I stand before this body of Congress to recognize one of Colorado's outstanding citizens. Lynn Dyer resides in Cortez and has been working there as the director of tourism for Mesa Verde Country. Lynn has recently been chosen as Citizen of the Year by the City of Cortez and is currently the President of the Southwest Colorado Travel Region.

Lynn recently planned the Mesa Verde Country Indian Arts and Western Culture Festival, which was recognized as one of the top 100 events in North America in 2003 by the American Bus Association. The organization and planning of this festival also earned Lynn the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Tourism Initiative. This award, presented by Colorado's Governor Bill Owens, is given to a community that helps to promote tourism in Colorado.

As most of you know, the Mesa Verde area has been challenged by a number of severe wildfires in recent years, making many think tourism would sharply decrease. The efforts of Lynn and her team have helped to keep tourism steady, so people across the nation can see the wonders of the Mesa Verde area.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand and express my gratitude for the hard work of Lynn Dyer. Lynn is the kind of individual who makes my district proud. I wish Lynn the best as she continues her work promoting tourism in Colorado and it is my hope that Americans will continue to discover the beauty of this region.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF LYNDONVILLE, NEW YORK

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Village of Lyndonville, New York. This congressional recognition will be presented later this month when village officials and citizens gather together to celebrate this historic event.

The Village of Lyndonville is a small town that has evolved with the times, but whose residents have never lost touch with their roots. Its history resembles that of many of the small towns on which our nation was built. In the 1820s, the area began to grow after the construction of a corduroy road, which was built of logs laid side by side transversely. This road is now Route 63—Lyndonville's Main Street. The locale began to prosper after several merchants built businesses on Main Street in 1836. Settlers also found the area attractive due to the possibilities offered by Johnson's Creek, which runs through the village. Named for the British Indian agent, Sir William Johnson, Johnson's Creek was harnessed by early settlers as a power source. Early settlers built the first flouring mills using the creek, including S. W. Mudgett, Samuel Tappan, and Richard Barry, among others.

The village was originally called Lyndon—in honor of Lyndon, Vermont, the home of many of its original settlers. Lyndon's name was eventually changed to Lyndonville in order to distinguish the village from nearby Linden, New York. One hundred years ago, the Village of Lyndonville was officially incorporated in Orleans County, on the shore of Lake Ontario.

The village sits on one square mile of beautiful, fertile Western New York land. The surrounding area is home to many of New York's famous apple orchards, as well as the lush, rolling vistas created by the retreating glaciers ages ago. Nestled against Lake Ontario, Lyndonville is blessed with the rich soil and pastoral serenity that Americans consider the ideal of our countryside, evocative of Mayberry and Grover's Corners.

With a population of 950, Lyndonville is a close-knit community where everyone is a neighbor. Most people know each other, and even if you are not well acquainted, faces smile with recognition and greetings are exchanged with warmth. Friendly inquiries are made when there has been an experience with pain—or joy. Anytime a neighbor is suffering from ill health or some loss, the community is there to help, to lighten the burden, and to express its loving concern. Beyond the village's long and distinguished history, Lyndonville is simply a place residents are proud to raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the Village of Lyndonville's 100th birthday, I unite with its residents to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to Orleans County, our state, and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO ALFREDO MONTES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the well-articulated environmental message of a fourth grader, Alfredo Montes, winner of the Friends of San Leandro Creek's 11th annual poetry contest. This contest was held in conjunction with the annual Watershed Festival Event, held in my district and cosponsored by the city of San Leandro, the Friends of San Leandro Creek (FSLC), and the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Protection program.

Organized in 1991 and officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1995, the FSLC is a wonderful organization that brings the Bay Area community together around the San Leandro Creek in order to raise awareness of environmental issues. In addition to the Watershed Festival, the FSLC frequently organizes educational programs such as field trips and conservation projects for students in kindergarten through 12th grade; and regular cleanup and revegetation projects. I also regularly participate with other legislators in the FSLC's annual environmental forum. The FSLC's latest project—hopefully to be completed within the next two years—is building a new environmental education center at a new site.

Alfredo is a student at Monarch Academy, an Aspire Public School in Oakland, CA. His teacher, Andrea Main, thanked the FSLC for substantially helping to “complement my cur-

riculum” with activities like field trips and water quality testing that “totally inspired my kids.”

Ms. Main described Alfredo as a “diligent, hardworking” student who hopes to become an elected official when he grows up. His work was selected from about 20 poetry entries, by a panel of judges from the FSLC's board of directors and active members. FSLC Watershed Awareness Coordinator Susan Criswell added, “I am in awe of the energy, talent and determination of this young man. It gives me hope for the future of our environment to see such dedication.”

Alfredo attended an FSLC-organized field trip with his class and said, “I always go to places like the creek that have shallow water, because they have pollution in them, and that's what inspired me to write this poem.”

THE CREEK

(By Alfredo Montes)

The creek grows weak,
the frog no longer speaks,
the water almost falls asleep,
the trees continue to seek,
the creek feels like it has a leak,
like every time growing weak,
it gets lower and shallower as we speak,
so I will have to speak no more and hit the poem's core,
we have to clean up the pollution so we keep
on the revolution.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 760, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.

Partial-birth abortion is an inhumane procedure which is never necessary to preserve the health of the mother. Indeed, this procedure poses serious health risks to the mother, and it is unnecessarily brutal to the baby. I have heard from numerous physicians that there are other safe methods for terminating a pregnancy when the life of the mother is in danger, and the American Medical Association has stated that partial-birth abortion is not an accepted medical practice.

H.R. 760 addresses the constitutional issues raised by the Supreme Court decision in *Stenberg v. Carhart*. It does so by using a more precise definition of the gruesome partial-birth procedure, clearly distinguishing between this and other forms of abortion. Furthermore, H.R. 760 provides extensive congressional findings which show that a partial-birth abortion is never medically necessary to preserve the health of a woman.

The House has passed this legislation in previous Congresses, yet a final vote did not take place in the Senate or in conference. The Senate recently passed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. We now have a historic opportunity to pass this legislation and send it to the White House for the President's approval. I strongly support enactment of a ban on partial-birth abortion, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 760.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORA ANZIK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding volunteer and community member from my district. Nora Anzik is the recipient of this year's Volunteer of the Year Award given by TREC, the Therapeutic Riding and Education Center of Pueblo, Colorado. Nora's hard work helps children with disabilities experience the joy of riding horses, something they could not accomplish without her.

Nora's enthusiasm, patience, and effectiveness became obvious in her first week at TREC. She began her work with a young autistic boy named Steven. Steven was not comfortable with some of the aspects of riding, and it was Susan's persuasive, positive attitude that helped him to adjust. Her work with Steven is just one example of the compassion she has for those in need. Nora continues to work with Steven and numerous other children, becoming a role model in many of their lives. She is a wonderful teacher, who knows how to get through to children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, great Americans like Nora, who volunteer their time, have helped to make our country great. I am proud of her accomplishments and it gives me great joy to inform this body of Congress and this nation of her outstanding community service. Thank you, Nora, for your hard work and dedication. Your commitment and involvement in the Pueblo community will not be forgotten.

POLITICAL TENSIONS IN BURMA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I risk today to express my deepest concerns about the ongoing political problems in Burma and the recent arrest of opposition leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi. I am deeply troubled by the military regime's stifling of political life. This equals a brutal, unacceptable situation lacking democratic essentials. Obviously, the military junta tries to block and prevent democratic change for which nobel peace prize laureate Suu Kyi's life and work stand for.

With the detention of Suu Kyi and nineteen members of her National League for Democracy party last Friday, the political tensions are on the rise again. The NLD headquarters and universities were also closed. It is common practice for the junta to crash NLD meetings by sending bullies to intimidate pro-democracy advocates. Only last year Suu Kyi was released from custody while at the same time the junta arrested many NLD party members. The military regime allowed her to travel freely throughout the country and organize her party but during her last two trips she met harassment and obstruction. This clearly indicates that hope for democratic reform, which was stirred by Suu Kyi's release, has suffered a major setback. The illegitimate government

further promised to engage in a dialogue with the NLD, supervised by the United Nations. Sadly, the talks failed to make significant progress.

Deficits are not only visible in the political arena but also in the social and economic field. Long-term economic mismanagement under authoritarian rule created severe economic and social ills. Due to the government's human rights' abuses and the unfriendly business environment, international companies have left the country. Inflation is rampant, probably as high as fifty percent. The social sector is in dire straits with every third child suffering from malnutrition. Yet 40 percent of the budget is spent for defense.

The problems in Burma are grave and wide-reaching. There's a democratic movement that deserves and needs our support, there's a military regime that needs to realize that its only way out of Burma's crisis is to fully respect democracy and human rights. This regime must accept the results of the 1990 election which were won by Aung Sang Suu Syi. To achieve these goals, I have cosponsored the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003," which—amongst other provisions—prohibits imports from Burma in order to press the regime to adapt full-fledged democratic reforms and supports democracy activists within Burma.

A BILL TO RESTORE EQUITY IN THE TAXATION OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will restore equity in the taxation of political campaign committees.

Currently, the tax code treats income in federal political campaign committees the same as corporate income. This allows candidates for congressional office to pay campaign taxes on a graduated rate scale, offering us significant tax benefits.

Specifically, we pay a 15 percent tax rate on the first \$50,000 of income in our campaign accounts. Income in our accounts between \$50,001 and \$75,000 is taxed at 25 percent, and income between \$75,001 and \$10 million is taxed at 34 percent. Only when our campaign accounts boast over \$10 million are we subjected to a 35 percent tax rate.

Mr. Speaker, each of us in this chamber can attest to the ridiculously high amount of money that we must raise in order to run a formidable campaign for Congress. However, I doubt that many of us actually reach that \$10 million threshold and pay a 35 percent tax rate on the money in our campaign accounts.

Unfortunately, our colleagues in state legislatures across the country aren't as fortunate. As Texas State Senator Jon Lindsay pointed out to us in the Texas Delegation, every dollar in his campaign account is taxed at a flat 35 percent rate. In fact, only candidates for Congress are able to enjoy this graduated tax schedule.

To correct this inequity in our tax code, I am introducing legislation today to amend the Internal Revenue Code and mandate that state

political campaign committees are taxed in the same manner as our federal campaign committees.

Joining me in this effort to ensure that the tax code treats our state legislators fairly is the entire Democratic wing of the Texas delegation: Representative CHRIS BELL, Representative LLOYD DOGGETT, Representative CHET EDWARDS, Representative MARTIN FROST, Representative CHARLES GONZALEZ, Representative RALPH HALL, Representative RUBEN HINOJOSA, Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Representative NICK LAMPSON, Representative SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, Representative SILVESTRE REYES, Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ, Representative MAX SANDLIN, Representative CHARLES STENHOLM, and Representative JIM TURNER.

My thanks goes out to each of them for their support, as well as to Senator Lindsay for bringing this matter to our attention. I urge my fellow colleagues to co-sponsor this bill and show their support for the state legislators who work hard representing them back home.

RECOGNITION OF BRADEN CHRISTIAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Braden Christian of Harrisburg, Illinois in honor of his participation in the 76th annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee.

Braden was the winner of the Tri-State Spelling Bee held at Bosse High School in Evansville, Illinois on March 15 earlier this year. His win secured him an invitation to the National Spelling Bee.

Today, I would like to congratulate Braden on his victory and wish him luck in the National Competition.

The Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee is held annually and features 251 students from grades five through eight from all over the country. Students are quizzed on a large selection of words from the Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary. I would like to commend Braden for his hard work and dedication to pursuing his goal of winning the National Title.

In closing, I would like to praise Braden for all of his achievements and also thank his parents and teachers who have nurtured and inspired Braden's desire for excellence and love of knowledge. He is a truly wonderful young man and I look forward to hearing of his future accomplishments. God Bless.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN WELDON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a longtime servant of Alamosa, Colorado, Lynn Weldon. Lynn has served the Alamosa City Council diligently for almost twenty years. In recognition